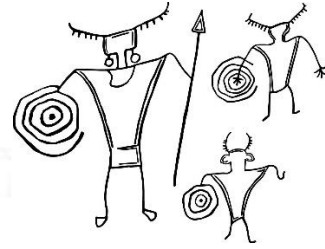


VESTIGES



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Monthly Newsletter of URARA, the Utah Rock Art Research Association

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From the Prez

Kent Williams

Hello URARA,

Just a few words on the Symposium, less than a month away by time you get this issue of Vestiges:

We've had several inquiries on our policy regarding COVID safety, especially regarding the BA.4 and BA.5 variants that appear to be more contagious and more able to evade immunization from vaccinations and from earlier infection. We set a policy for all URARA sponsored events earlier in the year that still stands: Vaccinations and boosters are highly recommended for all attendees, but not required. Wearing facemasks indoors is encouraged, but not required. The venue at the Vernal Conference Center is very spacious, and we anticipate being able support distancing in seating. Facemasks and hand sanitizers will be available at the venue. Be aware that carpooling may be required for some field trips, depending upon the number or folks registered and available parking at the sites visited.

Registration will be available on the website September 1. The schedule is summarized below; detail is available on the web page. ([Utah Rock Art Research Association](#), log in to member's page>events>2022 Symposium)

I hope to see you there, and I wish you safe travels!

Kent

September 2022

URARA Symposium 2022

Uintah Conference Center and the Uintah County Heritage Museum

Registration for the 2022 symposium is now open on the URARA website. Go to the website for details. This is an overview of the symposium venues and activities.



Uintah Conference Center,
313 East 200 South, Vernal, UT



Uintah County Heritage Museum,
155 East Main, Vernal, UT

September 29/Thursday

Workshops

See a detailed description of Thursday's workshops and meeting times on the URARA website. Workshops include:

Site Stewardship: Join an archaeologist from the State Historic Preservation Office and be trained to become a site steward in Utah. There is a morning session at the Heritage Museum starting at 9:00, and an afternoon session in the field location at the Alhandra archaeo-astronomy site.

Site Documentation: Join archaeologists from the State Historic Preservation Office and the Bureau of Land Management and be trained in how to document an archaeology site. This will be in the field. Meeting at 9:00 in the parking lot behind the Field House Museum at [496 E Main St, Vernal](#).

Drawing for documentation: Join archaeologist Carol Patterson and learn how to fill out site forms, stage and process site photographs, and execute drawings of panels at the park next to the Heritage Museum. Class starts at 9:00.

Photography: Join photographer Robert Crifasi and learn how to improve your rock art photography. Session starts at 1:00 at the Heritage Museum and runs for 4 hours

Field Survey: Join Kent Williams for a great day in the field to help locate undocumented sites in an area proposed for development. This workshop will take place in the Brush Creek area. Meet at east side of the library parking lot at 204 E 100 N, Vernal, UT

September 30/Friday

Field Trips

See a detail description of field trips on the website. Meet at the Uintah Conference Center in the east parking lot at 8:00 AM. Look for your field trip leader with a sign for the trip you signed up for.

Speaker Meeting 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Speakers should bring copies of their presentations to the Uintah Conference Center so they can be tested and loaded onto the presentation computer.

Watermelon Social

The watermelon social is in the park adjacent to the Heritage Museum from 6:00 to 7:00 PM. The Heritage Museum will stay open an extra hour so you can visit and attend a special lecture.

Heritage Museum Special Speakers

Following the watermelon social, listen to Dr Byron Loosle and Dr Judson Finley speak on the Uinta Basin Fremont at the Heritage Museum from 7:00 to 8:00 PM. This event is open to the public.

October 1/Saturday

Doors Open 7:00 a.m.

Breakfast snacks and coffee available in the morning.

Speaker Presentations 8:00 a.m.

The lectures are at the Uintah Conference Center. See a complete list of Saturday's speakers and scheduled times on the URARA website.

Lunch 11:50 a.m. – 1:00 p.m

Speaker Presentations 1:00 p.m. – 4:10 p.m.

Banquet 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

The banquet is at the Uintah Conference Center. Buffet: Steak, chicken, veggie pasta salad, baked potato, salad, cheesecake, lemonade

Auction and Awards 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

The auction and awards ceremony will be at the Uintah Conference Center

October 2/Sunday

Doors Open 7:00 a.m.

Breakfast snacks and coffee available in the morning.

Speaker Presentations 8:00 – 11:40

The lectures are at the Uintah Conference Center. See a complete list of speakers and scheduled times on the URARA website. Coffee and snacks available during breaks.

Lunch/Board Meeting 11:40 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Membership Meeting 1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Agenda: Survey Results, Financial Report, Committee Reports, Election of Board Members

Board Nominations: There are four board positions open for 2023-2024. The nominating committee has nominated 3 current board members whose term expires this year, and one new nominee:

Carol Duecker (current)
John McHugh (current)
Nina Bowen (current)
Keith Fessenden (new)

Short bios and qualifications for these nominees will be provided to the membership prior to the membership meeting.

Nominations from the floor will be accepted, per the bylaws.

Speaker Presentations 1:30 p.m. – 4:40 a.m.

October 3/Monday

Field Trips

See a detailed description of field trips on the website. Meet at the Uintah Conference Center in the east parking lot at 8:00 AM. Look for your field trip leader with a sign for the trip you signed up for.

Also

Heritage Museum



Heritage Museum



In addition to the conference center, many activities will take place in and around the Heritage Museum at 155 East Main Street, Vernal. There are displays worth your time to visit, including the Native American Thorne Collection, many of which are being returned to the Ute Tribe.

For river runners, visit the museum to see the recent donation of cataract boats from the family of A.K. Reynolds, who still own a ranch by Red Canyon. The boats were in storage since the 1960s.

Notes:

Coffee and snacks will be available during breaks between speakers on Saturday and Sunday. Breakfast snacks and coffee will be available in the morning.

Vendors will be at the Uintah Conference Center on Saturday and Sunday. If you are a vendor, you can set up after 4:00 PM on the west side at the loading dock

Saturday speakers, please meet between 4:00 and 6:00 PM on Friday inside the conference center to load your presentation.

Symposium Vendor Information

Keith Fessenden

Vendors wishing to sell at the upcoming 2022 Vernal Symposium will need to register online again this year. Registration for vendors will open at the same time as for Symposium participants (August). On the URARA website (www.utahrockart.org) look for the symposium section of the events tab.

The symposium will be held in the Uintah Convention Center located at 313 East 200 South, Vernal, Utah 84078. Vendors will set up at the rear of the meeting area in the area annotated as room D on the floor chart located at <https://uintahconferencecenter.com/index.php/venue/building-layout>. We are planning on a limit of ten (10) vendors this year.

Please note:

- Vendors must be current URARA members.
- The vendor fee is \$25 and a donated item to the auction.
- **A table and two chairs can be provided by the event location sized 8 feet x 2.5 feet. You may bring your own table of the same, or smaller, size if you prefer. All vendors are limited to a ten (10) foot space, one table, due to size constraints this year. You may bring a small 3 foot table that fits behind your table.**
- Please bring your own extension cords.
- **Wi-Fi should be available.**
- Vendors will set-up in along the walls in Room D. See floor plan link above.
- Vendor registration is limited to 10 due to space constraints.

If you have questions or attempt to sign up for a space and are unable to do so, please contact Keith Fessenden at (303) 907-5184.

Member Survey

Kent Williams

The last two years have been difficult for everyone. For URARA, we went from having monthly field trips that would fill within hours to offering no organized field trips at all. Well attended symposiums at St George and Bluff were followed by two consecutive years of cancelled events at Vernal. The board decided to take advantage of the down time and get back to basics – take another look at our core values, take stock of our current membership, and make sure we were headed in a direction we wanted to go. We contracted with a professional facilitator to help work through these fundamental questions.

One of the more significant outcomes from the retreat was realizing that we need to focus more on our membership. Making sure we connect. Making sure our priorities align with the expectations of our membership. We want to know what our priorities should be. Board members have assumptions and personal bias of what those priorities should be, but we needed to hear from you. Symposiums and field trips have often been opportunities for some interaction between the board and members to do that, but those opportunities are limited to those able to attend. With 456 members, those opportunities provided a pretty narrow range of our membership. In the last two years of cancelled symposiums and no field trips, there has been no interaction at all. So, we decided to do a survey. Here are the primary questions we had going into the survey, a summary of your responses, and since we will be relying on your responses to help us guide the organization in our planning, some of our initial take-aways.

What do our members expect from being a part of URARA?

We looked at two survey questions to try and answer this question. When asked why members joined URARA, the top responses were to find out about rock art site locations, go on field trips, and learn more about rock art. When asked what to prioritize as an organization, the top responses were conservation and preservation of rock art, educating URARA members about rock art, and promoting respectful site visitation practices and combating vandalism.

What to take away from these responses, which at first glance seem a bit contradictory? How can leading an ever-increasing number of people to an ever-expanding list of rock art sites help conserve and preserve rock art? We took a shot: people join URARA to go see rock art but as they learn and gain experience, they stay in the organization to help conserve and preserve rock art and learn even more about it. We see opportunities to add more depth and interpretation to field trips including characteristics of rock art styles, the history of conservation efforts involving sites, and promoting respect for an indigenous perspective that includes people who consider rock art sites sacred. We recognize that increased site visitation, respectful or not, can have physical impact on sites and we need to take that into consideration as we plan and organize field trips. We will continue to recognize the obligation to clear site visitation with the land management agencies who have mandates for protecting cultural resources on the lands they manage for all Americans.

Is our Mission Statement still relevant, or do we need to make a change?

Members overwhelmingly agree that our mission statement remains relevant: To lead in the preservation and understanding of rock art sites. To assist in the study, presentation, and publication of rock art research, and encourage the appreciation and enjoyment of rock art sites.

How can we better connect with members?

We found that the primary sources of information are the URARA web site and our monthly publication Vestiges. We also found that many of you were not aware of many other resources available to members, such as Patina, and the members forum, publication back issues, and past symposium presentations on the web site, and the URARA presence on Facebook. We need to do better in increasing awareness of resources that already exist, but are infrequently used.

How many potential volunteers do we have?

As an all-volunteer organization, we are limited in what we can offer by how many folks are willing and able to help out. While only 8% of the respondents indicated a willingness to get more involved, that percentage does indicate 36 people who are willing to contribute. We followed up with another survey asking more specific questions about volunteer work that members would be interested in, and responses to those question resulted in a list of people that will be contacted as opportunities to help come up. The survey will remain open and you can use this [link](#) if you would like to participate.

Where do Members live?

We found that 40% of us are from Utah and 20% from Colorado. 85% of total membership is from SW states and California, leaving 15% from States across the US and from several foreign countries. What we take away from that is that interest in Utah rock art has no boundaries.

Where do we go from here?

The board will be using the survey results to help plan our activities in the coming year. In addition to the summaries listed above, which were based on questions and responses that could be quantified, there were many good individual responses and ideas that we can refer to.

If you wish to take a look at the survey results yourselves and draw your own conclusions, your feedback and your continued engagement is always welcome. The [full survey results](#) are posted on the members page on the URARA web site.

Coordinator Lead Position Available

Diana Acerson

We are looking for someone to fill the position of Coordinator Lead, overseeing and assisting URARA's 10 area Coordinators. This position is part of URARA's Conservation/Preservation mission.

For detailed information about the position, please contact Diana Acerson: dace1950@gmail.com or call 435-262-7044.

Thanks so much for helping us continue this program.

Calendar and URARA Events

Sep 29 - Oct 3	URARA Symposium and membership meeting, Vernal
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URARA symposia and field trips are available to members only. Vaccination is strongly encouraged. All members receive an email notification when a field trip opens for registration. Notifications go out between 45 and 14 days before a trip. You can register for a field trip when you get the notification. If a trip is full when you try to register, your name is added to a wait list. You will get another notification if and when someone drops out and you can be added to the trip.

Dixie Archaeological Society (DAS), St George, meets on the second Wednesday of the month, Saturday field trips once a month. <http://www.dixierockart.com/>

Southern Nevada Rock Art Association (SNRAA), Las Vegas, meets on the 4th Monday of the month. <http://snraa.org/snraa.org/EVENTS.html>

San Diego Rock Art Association (SDRAA) meets at the Kumeyaay Center in Poway every other month, sometimes on the first Sunday, sometimes not. <https://sandiegorockart.org/meetings>
Now on-line.

American Rock Art Research Association (ARARA) is hosting on-line events. Free access is granted to URARA members. Registration at: <https://arara.wildapricot.org/Lectures>

Utah Humanities Public Events

https://utahhumanities.org/index.php/component/com_calendar/Itemid,184/component_com_calendar/id,2203/view,event/

URARA Board and Officers

Utah Rock Art Research Association: Box 511324, Salt Lake City, UT 84151-1324.

www.utahrockart.org . Contact information - utahrockartresearchassoc@gmail.com

2022 URARA Board and Officers

Kent Williams, President
 Darlene Koerner, Vice President
 Carol Duecker, Treasurer
 Roger Cook, Secretary
 Diana Acerson, Conservation
 Wanda Gayle
 John McHugh
 Rick Matthews
 Nina Bowen

Committee Chairs and Appointees

Tribal Liaison	Carol Patterson
Historian/ Archives	Keith Fessenden
Website/Membership	Troy Scotter
Conservation/Preservation	Werner Duecker
Documentation	
Education	John McHugh
Research	Darlene Koerner
Field Trips	Wanda Gayle
Symposium Chair	Darlene Koerner
Publications Editor	Dennis DeVore
Vestiges Editor	Ben Everitt
Board Nominations	Werner Duecker

URARA Conservation Coordinators

<u>BLM District</u>	<u>Field Office</u>	<u>Coordinator</u>
Coordinator Lead		open
Canyon Country	Moab	Pam & Quent Baker
Canyon Country	Monticello	Werner Duecker, Carol Duecker
Paria River	Kanab	Jeff Frey
Color Country	Cedar City	Gina Hupka
Color Country	St. George	Nina Bowen
Color Country	Richfield	Jeff Roberts
Green River	Vernal	Tim Sweeney, Darlene Koerner
Green River	Price	Layne Miller
West Desert	Fillmore	Steve Acerson
West Desert	Salt Lake	Don & Adele Leavitt